

REMARKS

Status of this application

In the Office Action mailed on October 7, 2005, claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,905,001 issued to Penner (hereinafter "Penner"). Claims 5 and 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form

This response amends independent claim 1 to correspond to allowed claim 5 by incorporating the limitations of claim 5 and its parent claim 4 into claim 1. Claims 3-5 and claim 9 have been canceled since they contain limitations now included in amended independent claim 1. Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowed claim 14, which has been canceled. Claim 15 had been cancelled to expedite the prosecution, and claims 16-xx have been newly added to complete the scope of applicant's protection.

As a result of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-2, 6-8 and 10-13 are believed to be allowable since independent claims 1 and 10 incorporate the limitations of claims 5 and 14 respectively which were noted as being allowable in the Office Action. The following remarks are accordingly directed to the allowability of the claims newly added by this response.

Newly added claims 16-18

Claims 16-18 are directed to a tactile communications system in which on or more pressure sensors produce a time-varying signal values to a receiving location indicative of the amount of pressure applied by the fingers of a human sender's hand. One or more receiving vibrators located at said receiving location are responsive to the time-varying signal values received from the sender and apply vibratory stimuli to the fingers of a human receiver's hand which have a variable intensity corresponding to the variations in said amount of pressure applied by the fingers of said human sender's hand.

Penner describes a system in which the sender's fingers operate switches which develop binary signals sent to the receiving station that turn on and off vibratory buzzers or clickers. Penner nowhere discloses or suggests applying vibratory stimuli to the human receiver's hand that have a variable intensity corresponding to the variations in the amount of pressure applied by the human sender's fingers as set forth in new independent claim 16. Dependent claim 17

describes how the pressure sensors and output vibrators may be placed on the surface of a telephone handset to allow the handset to exchange both voice and touch signals with like handsets over a telephone communication channel, a further feature not described by Penner. Dependent claim 18 further defines the use of feedback transducers which permit the sender to perceive the way in which the remote receiver will perceive the transmitted touch signals which, as acknowledged by the Examiner in the last Action, is not disclosed by Penner.

Conclusion

It is believed that claims 1-2, 6-8 and 10-13, and 16-18 are allowable for the reasons presented above.

Respectfully submitted,



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Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this *Amendment* is being transmitted by facsimile to the central facsimile number of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, (571) 273-8300, on February 7, 2006.



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Signature

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